

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

30 May 2019

Ms. Emma Best
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 60920
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Reference: F-2019-00017

Dear Ms. Best:

This is a final response to your 2 April 2019 appeal to the Agency Release Panel (ARP) of your request for records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The ARP carefully considered your petition and determined that the appeal should be denied in full. As the Executive Secretary of the ARP, I am the CIA official responsible for informing you of the appellate determination, described more fully in what follows.

The Agency conducted a reasonable search calculated to locate records that might reflect an open or otherwise acknowledged relationship with the CIA and was unable to locate any responsive records on Joseph Helmich.

The ARP upheld the Agency's initial decision with respect to other records that might reveal a classified or otherwise unacknowledged connection with the CIA, in accordance with Section 3.6 (a) of Executive Order 13526, we can neither confirm nor deny the existence of such records. The fact of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself currently and properly classified and is intelligence sources and methods information protected from disclosure by Section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949 and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947. Therefore the appropriate FOIA exemptions are (b)(1) and (b)(3). Exemption (b)(3) pertains to information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant statutes are Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947.

In accordance with the provisions of the FOIA, you have the right to seek judicial review of this determination in federal district court. Alternatively, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and federal agencies. Using services offered by OGIS does not affect your right to pursue litigation. For more information, including how to contact OGIS, please consult its website at <http://ogis.archives.gov>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Lilly".

Mark Lilly
Executive Secretary
Agency Release Panel